

1966



LIMERICK CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY



RIGOLETTO

Handwritten signature

Souvenir Programme

::

2/-

1966

Limerick Choral and Operatic Society

FESTIVAL OF GRAND OPERA

AT THE SAVOY THEATRE

NOVEMBER 16th & 18th

RIGOLETTO

(VERDI)

NOVEMBER 17th & 19th

FAUST

(GOUNOD)

Augmented Orchestra conducted by

COMDT. JOHN P. BRENNOCK

(Assistant Director, Army School of Music)

Production by ANNE MAKOWER

ADMISSION - - - - - 12/6, 10/-, 7/6, 5/-

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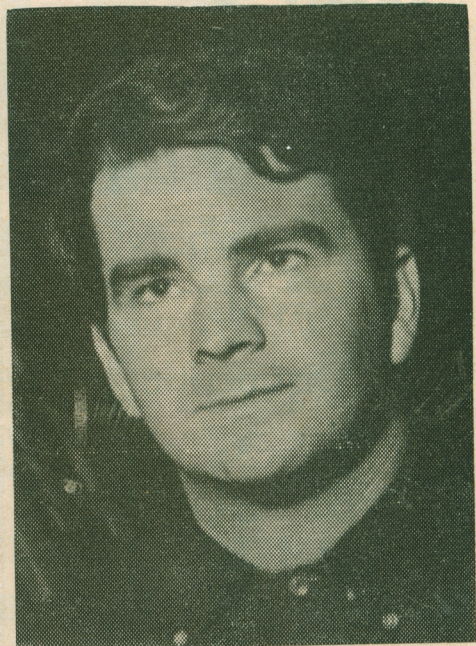
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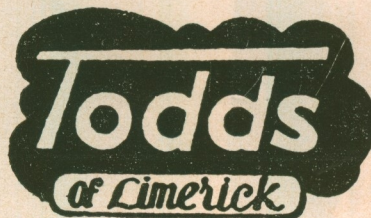
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INTERNATIONAL GUEST ARTISTES

JOSEPH POWELL was born in Yorkshire, and studied at the Montpellier School of Music in Cheltenham and with Joseph Hislop in London. He joined the Sadlers Wells chorus in 1957 and sang small parts in many productions before leaving to become a touring concert artiste, when he appeared in all the principal theatres in Britain over a period of three years. Returning to Sadlers Wells as principal tenor in 1963, he also appeared as guest artiste with the Edinburgh Grand Opera Company, the Dublin Grand Opera and on B.B.C. Radio and TV. A newcomer to Limerick, he will sing the role of the Duke of Mantua in "Rigoletto."



GWYN GRIFFITHS, remembered for his performance in "Il Trovatore," "L'Elisir d'Amore," "Tosca," and "The Barber of Seville," returns to sing the difficult role of "Rigoletto." He studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London and later appeared with the Intimate Opera Company. Now principal baritone with the Sadlers Wells Opera Company, he has sung leading roles at the Glyndebourne Festival and with the Welsh National Opera Company. A regular broadcaster, he has appeared as soloist at the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and at the Royal Festival Hall with the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra.



MARION STUDHOLME returns to Limerick following her triumph in "Lucia di Lammermoor" last season to sing the role of Gilda in "Rigoletto." She studied at the Royal College of Music before joining Sadlers Wells Opera Company, where she became principal coloratura soprano. In 1960 she was invited by Sir Tyrone Guthrie to appear at the Festival at Stratford, Ontario, and later in New York, and has since made two return visits to the United States and Canada. She appears as guest artiste with the Covent Garden Opera, performs frequently on Radio and Television and has recorded many times for both Decca and H.M.V.



MARY RYAN, born in England of Irish parents, comes from a very musical family, having two sisters and a brother in the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. She studied in Milan and sang for two years with various Italian Companies before joining the Covent Garden Opera Company, where she met her husband, Walter Dinoff (who sang in the Limerick production of "Il Trovatore" two years ago). Well known on the Continent, where she has appeared with the Covent Garden Opera, and as soloist on concert platforms in many European capitals, she will sing the role of Margarita in "Faust" on her first visit to Limerick.

PATRICIA LAWLOR, one of the best-known mezzo-sopranos in Ireland, also appears for the first time in Limerick to sing the part of Siebel in "Faust." A gold medalist at the Dublin Feis Ceoil, she also won the John McCormack Cup and Lieder Prize, and has appeared as guest artiste with Our Lady's Choral Society in Handel's "Messiah," and Verdi's "Requiem," and at the Guild Hall, Derry, in Handel's "Samson." She has sung leading roles with the Dublin Grand Opera Society, and with many Operatic Societies, including Cork, Waterford, Kilrush, Kilkenny and Carlow, and has also appeared in concerts in London, Liverpool and Birmingham.



EDWIN FITZGIBBON is best known in Limerick for his performance with the Limerick Choral Union under Tibor Paul of the Verdi and Mozart Requiems, Handel's Messiah and the Kodaly Te Deum. He sang the title role in the Telefis Eireann Opera "Patrick," which was shown at last year's Salzburg Festival. He was born in Cork and studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin under the late Maestro Viani, and at the Royal Manchester College of Music. His best known roles include Othello, Andrea Chenier, Manrico, Cavaradossi and Faust, which he will sing on his first appearance at the Limerick Opera Festival.



STANISLAV PIECZORA, who gave distinguished performances in the previous production of "Faust" and in "The Barber of Seville," "La Boheme" and "Lucia di Lammermoor," returns for the fourth time to sing Mephistopheles in "Faust," and Sparafucile in "Rigoletto." After training in Italy, he made his debut in his native Poland at the Warsaw Grand Theatre. He practised as a doctor in London and made several appearances in televised opera before joining the Carl Rosa Opera Company. A frequent broadcaster, he has also sung with the Sadlers Wells Opera Company, and was principal bass with the Royal Nederlandsche Opera in Amsterdam.



ROBERT SIMMONS, the Australian dramatic baritone, was born in Melbourne, where he was principal baritone of the National Opera Company, and has been hailed by the press and public throughout his native country as one of the finest Rigolettos and Scarpias ever heard there. After a period of study in Paris, he decided to visit London and, whilst there, was invited to sing with the Carl Rosa Opera Company. He appeared with great success throughout England and Scotland with this Company, afterwards returning to Australia under contract to the Elizabethan Opera Company and the Australian Broadcasting Commission for TV. appearances. He returned to England where he recently appeared as Rigoletto, which he will sing in Limerick on his first appearance in Ireland.

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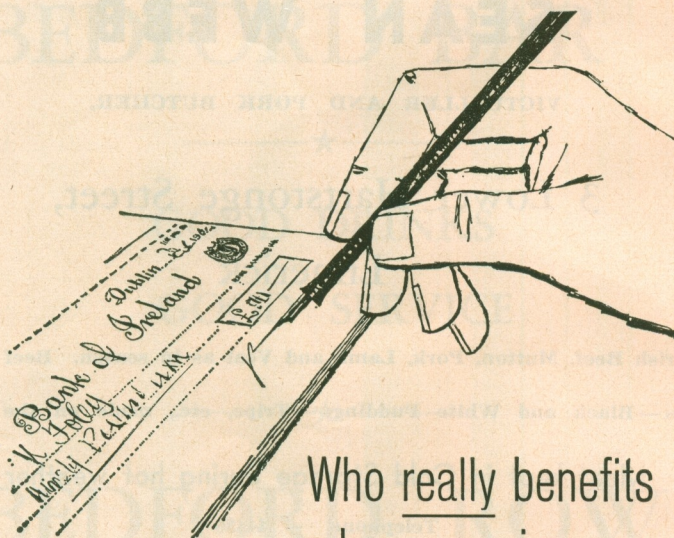
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SPARAFUCILE (<i>a Bravo</i>)	STANISLAV PIECZORA
COUNT MONTERONE	MICHAEL YELVERTON
MARULLO	GEORGE MADELEY
BORSA	FRANK BRODY
COUNT CEPRANO	JIM GRAHAM
AN USHER	CHRISTY O'HALLORAN
GILDA (<i>Rigoletto's daughter</i>)	MARION STUDHOLME
GIOVANNA (<i>her Nurse</i>)	IMELDA BRINN
MADDALENA (<i>Sparafucile's sister</i>)	RENEE MADDEN
COUNTESS CEPRANO	PATTY MCGURK
A PAGE	ENDA LYNCH

Chorus of Knights, Ladies and Pages of the Court.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- ACT 1 — An apartment in the Duke's Palace.
 ACT 2 — The Courtyard of Rigoletto's house.
 ACT 3 — An anti-chamber in the Duke's Palace.
 ACT 4 — A lonely inn, near Mantua.

— Intervals of 15 minutes between Acts —

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Musical Director	Colette Cantillon
Stage Director	Eamonn Henry
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Story of the Opera

ACT I.

A Ball is in progress in the Palace of the Duke of Mantua, who boasts to Borsa, a Courtier, of his many feminine conquests. He is especially eager, the Duke declares, to meet a certain young girl whom he has seen in Church. At present, however, the Duke's attentions are directed towards the Countess Ceprano. Count Ceprano, infuriated, is taunted by Rigoletto, the hunch-backed Court Jester. The Count devises a plot to kidnap the girl, whom he believes to be Rigoletto's mistress, and persuades the other Courtiers to join him in the scheme. Suddenly the Ball is interrupted by Count Monterone, an old noble whose daughter has been a victim of the Duke. Forcing his way into the Duke's presence, Monterone curses both the Duke and Rigoletto for their mockery. As Monterone is led away, Rigoletto broods over the curse which has been laid on him.

ACT II.

Late at night Rigoletto, on his way to the house where he has hidden his daughter, is approached by Sparafucile, a professional assassin. Rigoletto dismisses the murderer after learning where he may be found in case he should be needed. Rigoletto greets Gilda warmly. Calling Giovanna, Gilda's nurse, he warns her neither to admit anyone to the house, not to let Gilda be seen in Mantua. As Rigoletto leaves, the Duke slips into the garden, having come to meet the unknown girl whom he has seen in Church. He learns that she is Rigoletto's daughter and, after the Jester has left, passionately declares his love for her, telling her that he is a penniless student. Gilda accepts his advances, admitting that she loves him but sends him away at the sound of footsteps outside the house. The noise which is heard is made by Ceprano and the Courtiers. They have come to abduct Gilda. In the street they encounter Rigoletto himself and persuade him that it is the Countess Ceprano they are about to kidnap. He joins the plot and, blind-folded in the darkness, holds the ladder while the Courtiers steal away his own daughter. Learning how he has been tricked, Rigoletto cries out that the curse of Monterone has fallen.

ACT III.

The Duke muses on his love for Gilda and expresses his desire to find her at once. The Courtiers burst in to tell him how cleverly they schemed to kidnap the mistress of the Jester the night before. Guessing that the victim is Rigoletto's daughter and the girl he loves, the Duke learns from the Courtiers

that she is hidden in a neighbouring room. He rushes away to find her.

Rigoletto enters, looking for Gilda, and pretending to be in high good spirits. Cursing the Courtiers who have snatched her away from him, he demands to see his daughter. The conspirators are shocked to learn that their victim is not his mistress but his daughter. Suddenly Gilda rushes into the room. She begs her father to send away the Courtiers, then confesses her flirtation with the "student," who she now knows as the libertine Duke. As she finishes her admission, Monterone is led through the room on his way to prison. Stopping before the portrait of the Duke, he laments that his curse has had no effect on the betrayer of his daughter. Hearing him, Rigoletto shouts that honour shall indeed be avenged, and swears to kill the Duke.

ACT IV.

Rigoletto's plot to murder the Duke is well under way. Sparafucile, the assassin, has been hired, and his sister, a dancer named Maddalena, has lured the Duke to their lonely inn. The Jester compels Gilda to watch the Duke flirt with Maddalena. Still Gilda insists she loves him. Rigoletto sends her home to disguise herself in men's clothes, telling her to meet him in Verona the following day. After she has gone, Rigoletto tells Sparafucile to keep the victim there until he gets back. Meanwhile, Maddalena, who has been won by the Duke's declaration of love, begs Sparafucile to spare the Duke. Kill the Jester instead, she suggests. Sparafucile refuses, but promises to kill anyone whom Fate should send to the inn door before midnight. Gilda, returning, overhears his words and vows that she will gladly give her life to save the Duke. Begging shelter in the inn, she walks into the arms of Sparafucile, who stabs her and stuffs her body into a sack.

Rigoletto returns, pays the assassin, and is given the body, which he believes to be the Duke's. Sparafucile advises Rigoletto to throw it into the river quickly, then disappears. Gloating at his triumph over his master, Rigoletto is horrified to hear the voice of the Duke in the distance. Cutting open the sack, he discovers his dying daughter. As Gilda gasps her last breath, Rigoletto falls on her body, sobbing hysterically that the curse has finally been fulfilled.

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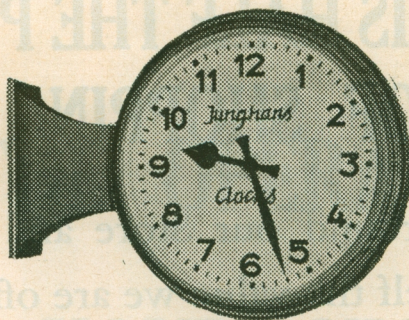
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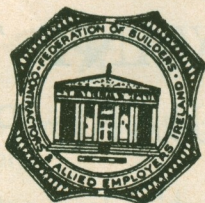
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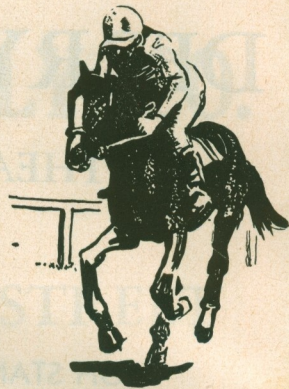
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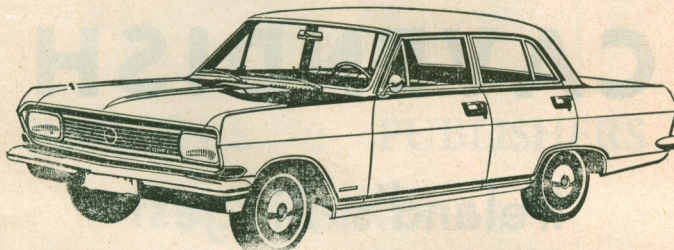
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SINCE ITS FOUNDATION, 1957



* 1957	THE VAGABOND KING	Friml
♣ 1958	THE BOHEMIAN GIRL	Balfe
♣	MARITANA	Wallace
♣ 1959	THE GIPSY BARON	Strauss
♣	LA TRAVIATA	Verdi
♣	LILY OF KILLARNEY	Benedict
♣ 1960	THE STUDENT PRINCE	Romberg
♣	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
♣	IL TROVATORE	Verdi
* 1961	THE LAND OF SMILES	Lehar
♣	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
* 1962	FAUST	Gounod
♣	THE BOHEMIAN GIRL	Balfe
♣	LA BOHEME	Puccini
♣	LA TRAVIATA	Verdi
♣	THE BARBER OF SEVILLE	Rossini
♣ 1963	LA PERICHOLE	Offenbach
♣	MADAME BUTTERFLY	Puccini
♣	DON PASQUALE	Donizetti
♣	CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA	Mascagni
♣	I PAGLIACCI	Leoncavallo
1964	CARMEN	Bizet
	IL TROVATORE	Verdi
	L'ELISIR D'AMORE	Donizetti
1965	TOSCA	Puccini
	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
	THE BARBER OF SEVILLE	Rossini

Guest Artistes who
have appeared in the
Society's productions



Frederick Bateman
Glenys Birch
Beverley Bohan
Stuart Burrows
Edward Byles
Connell Byrne
John Carolan
Gerald Davies
Veronica Dunne
William Dickie
Glenys Dowdle
Walter Dinoff
Ronald Evans
Austin Gaffney
Edvina Gray
Verushka Geinishvili
Rolf Gramatke
Lucille Graham
Edna Graham
Emyr Green
Gwyn Griffiths
David Holman
Rowland Jones
Valmai Johnston
Gerwyn Morgan
Kenneth McDonald
Walter Midgely
Brychan Powell
David Parker
Stanislav Pieczora
Thomas Round
Sylvia Rowlands
Elizabeth Rust
Josephine Scanlan
John Stoddart
Marion Studholme
Russell Smith
Laura Sarti
Gerald Stern
Robert Thomas
Evan Thomas
Pauline Tinsley
Frederick Westcott
Alan Ward

1966 FAUST
RIGOLETTO

1967

BOHEME - JON ANDERSON
BARBER - BILL DICKIE

1968 - LILY OF K. P. Ring
CONCERT. J. Scanlan
FAUST

THANK YOU!

THE SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD ITS VERY DEEP AND SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ITS FOLLOWING FRIENDS, WHO, BY THEIR HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT, CO-OPERATION AND GENEROSITY, HAVE MADE THIS FESTIVAL POSSIBLE:

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- (a) To the Hazel Bridge Club, who organised the very successful Opera Bridge Weekend;
- (b) to the local firms who supplied prizes for it;
- (c) to the Limerick Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Limerick Soroptimist Club, who organised and arranged Group attendances.

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